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To: Hot Topics
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Subject: UDOH Hot Topics Monday, June 4, 2001

Utah Department of Health

Hot Topics - Notes from Executive Management Team
Monday, July 2, 2001

Management Survey Indicates Training Needs in CFHS

Recently the Division of Community and Family Health Services conducted an internal survey of approximately 30 program and bureau managers. The survey used eight Healthy People 2010 training objectives to determine where training needs exist. Training in areas like cultural competency, leadership, systems, public health science skills, financial planning and management skills and others will be offered and then resurveyed to see where improvements occur. For more information, contact Shaheen Hossain at 801-538-6855.

* * Level 4 Issue - Staff Public Health Training

Nationwide Shortage of Tetanus-Diphtheria Vaccine Prompts UDOH to Issue Recommendations

The nationwide shortage of tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine continues. Aventis Pasteur MSD, the vaccine's sole manufacturer, has announced it will no longer ship to private physicians. In response, the UDOH is recommending that Utahns who are not in the priority groups (listed below) delay receiving the Td vaccine until 2002. This affects vaccine availability only for those over seven years of age since the supply of tetanus and diphtheria vaccines for infants and preschoolers is not affected by the shortage (DTaP). The adult and adolescent vaccine will only be given to those who fall within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The recommendations are prioritized in the following categories of individuals over the age of seven:

1. Persons traveling to a country where the risk for diphtheria is high
2. Persons requiring vaccination for preventing tetanus as part of wound management
3. Persons who have received less than 3 doses of tetanus and diphtheria vaccines during their lifetime.
4. Pregnant women who have not received a tetanus booster during the preceding 10 years

For more information, contact Linda Abel, Immunization Program Manager, 801-538-6905.

Patient Safety Conference Scheduled for September

A conference titled, "Patient Safety at the Cutting Edge:

Fundamentals, Research, and Best Practice for Implementing Utah's New

Hospital Regulations" has been scheduled for Sept 11-12, 2001. It will be held at the

Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at the Canyons Resort. The conference is presented by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Office of Health Care Information and The User Liaison Program. Locally, sponsors include the Utah Department of Health,

Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association and HealthInsight. This conference will precede two patient safety rules going into effect in October. For more information, contact Shelly Hook at 801-538-6111.

UDOH Indicator-Based Information System is in the Final Testing Phase

Gaining easy internet access to Utah's public health indicator data (infant mortality, tobacco use, HIV prevalence, etc.) is one step closer to completion. Watch for the URL address announcement for the Indicator Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH) sometime during July. To make the site more meaningful to users, the data is accompanied by contextual information about each health issue and programs in place to address Query options and other features will be added in the near future. This will only be promoted for internal use to begin with. For more information, contact Lois Haggard, Director of Office of Public Health Assessment at 801-538-9455.

UDOH A Healthier You 2002 Gold Medal Mile on July 18

Would you like to earn a collectable 2002 Games pin? If so, now is your chance to jump aboard the Salt Lake Organizing Committee's A Healthier You 2002. This initiative encourages all Utahns to trade in unhealthy lifestyles and embrace a life of health and wellness. On July 18, come and join your colleagues in a Gold Medal Mile anytime from 9:30am to Noon. Please meet behind the Utah Department of Health Building and the Department of Agriculture Building at the bridge behind the UDOH building. The first 200 people to register will receive a 2002 Gold Medal Mile Games Pin upon completing the walk. For more information, please contact Susannah Derbenwick, Bureau of Health Promotion, at 801-538-9209 or log on to A Healthier You 2002 and fill out the Gold Medal Mile Registration at www.saltlake2002.com (go to Education and click on A Healthier You 2002).

Expanded Loan/Scholarship Program Requested for Rural Hospitals

It was reported at the Rural Hospital Administrator Council in Roosevelt last week that the rural hospitals are experience shortages in a number of disciplines. These include medical technologists, radiological technologists, pharmacists, dentists, and nurses. This raises the issue of whether there is a broad enough focus by the current rural Loan/Scholarship programs. These programs are currently is funded for loans and scholarships only for nurses, physicians and physician assistants. For more information contact Marilyn Haynes-Brokopp 538-6206

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